THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The matter has been put to Court and is sub-judice.

Ei-gratia amount to the families of victims of terrorist violence in J and K

3544. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any ex-gratia amount has been paid to the families of the victims of terrorist violence in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years upto date;

(b) whether some of the families have not been paid such amount;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which they are likely to be paid the ex-gratia amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Government of J & K has been providing ex-gratia relief to the victims of terrorist violence at the prescribed rates. The expenditure incurred by the State Government in this regard is reimbursed by this Ministry on a monthly basis under Security Related Expenditure. During the last three years, a sum of Rs. 98.68 crores has been reimbursed to the State Government against payment of ex-gratia relief to the next-of-kin of those killed as well as to those injured and compensation for damage/loss of property.

(b) to (d) Some of the families have not been paid ex-gratia relief for want of verification/procedural formalities. The list of such families however is not maintained by the Central Government.

Agreement with Bangladesh on relaxation of visa system

3545. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have agreed in principle to relax the existing visa system;

(b) if so, the details of the agreements reached between both the countries in this regard;

(c) whether the question of illegal Bangladesh migrants into the country have been discussed; and

(d) the total number of illegal Bangladeshi migrants in the country and steps taken by Government to send them back?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO); (a) and (b) The review of the Visa Agreement between the Governments of India and Bangladesh formed part of the 7th Indo-Bangladesh Joint Working Group Meeting held recently. However, the same is at the discussion stage at present.

(c) Yes Sir, concern over continued flow of illegal migrants into India has been expressed by India to Bangladesh.

(d) It is difficult to make an estimate of the number of infiltrators from Bangladesh because they enter surreptitiously and are able to mingle easily with the local population due to ethnic and linguistic similarities. A series of measures including raising of additional battalion of the Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling in the border area, expediting completion of border roads and fencing etc. have been taken. In addition, the Central Government sensitizes regularly all the State Government/UT Administrations for effective detection and deportation of illegal migrants from Bangladesh, for which powers have been delegated to them and clear procedure has been prescribed. The progress of these measures is reviewed at various levels.